

# NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF ALABAMA**  
**Department of Industrial Relations**  
**News For Immediate Release**  
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## **ALABAMA RECORDS 3.5 PERCENT MAY JOBLESS RATE**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, June 15, 2007 . . . . . Unemployment in Alabama rose moderately to 3.5 percent in May, compared to 3.3 percent in April. The jobless rate in May 2006 was 3.6 percent.

“The number of unemployed Alabamians increased by 5,640 between April and May,” says Phyllis Kennedy, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director. “While the latest unemployment rate of 3.5 percent is the highest figure so far in 2007, Alabama has posted record low unemployment rates of 3.3 percent in three of five months this year.”

The latest comparable national unemployment rate for May is 4.5 percent, the same as the April figure. The national unemployment rate in May 2006 was 4.6 percent.

The lowest county rates for May are: Shelby (2.1 percent), Baldwin (2.2 percent), Madison and Autauga (2.3 percent), and Chilton, Blount, Cleburne, Tuscaloosa, and Cullman (2.4 percent). The highest county rates for May are: Wilcox (7.4 percent), Dallas (6.4 percent), Perry (6.3 percent), Bullock (6.2 percent), and Lowndes (5.5 percent).

Over the year, there was a net gain of 30,300 jobs in wage and salary employment. The majority of the annual growth occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (+8,200); followed by professional and business services (+8,100); government (+5,900); leisure and hospitality (+5,700); and educational and health services (+4,800). The majority of employment losses occurred in manufacturing (-5,000).

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County unemployment rates, Metropolitan Area Unemployment Rates, and an Alabama map of county unemployment rates, are available at: <http://dir.alabama.gov>. Click on “Alabama Labor Market Information Division” under “Quick Links” and follow prompts.